

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 XMB-02 ACDA-05 NIC-01 SAJ-01 /100 W

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R 231415Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7667

INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, ENRG, TU

SUBJ: THREAT TO NATIONALIZE MOBIL TANK FARM

REF:

A. ANKARA 9886, DECEMBER 23, 1974

B. ANKARA 9808, DECEMBER 19, 1974

1. ANKARA RADIO JANUARY 23 REPORTED THAT MINISTRY OF ENERGY WILL BE PREPARED TO TAKE OVER TANK FARMS OF BP AND MOBIL PETROLEUM COMPANIES IF THEY DO NOT IMPORT CRUDE PETROLEUM. IT REPORTED THAT UNDR SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MR. YALABIK, IN A STATEMENT TO TURKISH RADIO AND TELEVISION (TRT) SAID THAT BEP AND MOBLI HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO IMPORT CRUDE OIL WITHOUT DELAY AND HAVE BEEN GIVEN A GRACE PERIOD. IF THE TWO COMPANIES DO NOT IMPORT CRUDE OIL WITHIN THIS PERIOD, THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY WILL TAKE OVER THEIR TANK FARMS AT THE ATAS REFINERY AT MERSIN AND TURN THEM OVER TO TPAO (THE TURKISH STATE PETROLEUM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMPANY) AND SHELL OIL TO BE OPERATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE

PROVISIONS OF THE PETROLEUM LAW.

2. EMBASSY COMMENT: THE TWO SENIOR MOBIL REPRESENTATIVES IN TURKEY ARE NOW IN LONDON FOR TALKS WITH MOBIL'S REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REGARDING THE FUTURE STATUS OF MOBIL OPERATIONS IN TURKEY. COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES WHO ARE NOW AVAILABLE HERE ARE UNABLE TO CONFIRM WHETHER MOBIL HAS IN FACT RECEIVED SUCH A NOTIFICATION FROM THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY.

THE SHELL COMPANY IS A PARTNER IN THE ATAS REFINERY. CURRENT SHAREHOLDING IN THE REFINERY IS MOBIL 51 PERCENT, SHELL 27 PERCENT, AND BP 17 PERCENT. THE REMAINING 5 PERCENT IS HELD BY A SMALL TURKISH PRIVATE FIRM. BOTH MOBIL AND BP HAVE CEASED IMPORTING CRUDE PETROLEUM SINCE THE END OF DECEMBER. CURRENT PLANS ARE FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE REFINERY AT ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF CAPACITY ON THE BASIS OF DOMESTIC PRODUCTION BY SHELL (ABOUT 1.5 MILLION TONS PER YEAR) AND MOBIL (ABOUT 300,000 TONS PER YEAR).
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Message Attributes

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